

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/757,950

Examiner

Christina Russell

Applicant(s)

BARR, DAMON A.

Art Unit

2837

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 1/27/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6,7,9,10 and 27-31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The amendment made to Figure 14, or more specifically the addition of reference characters 34, B and I, is accepted.

Specification

The amendment made to the specification, in the last paragraph of page 3, extending to page 4, and in the last paragraph of page 5, is accepted.

Claims

The removal of the term "human grounding point", and the cancellation of claims 5, 8, and 11-26 are accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 27-31 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
3. The prior art relied upon in the first office action rejection by Jordan (5,191,159) no longer teaches all the claimed elements of the independent claim 1, and no other prior art references could be found that teach said claimed elements, therefore the independent claim and its dependent claims are considered allowable.

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4. In terms of the independent claim 1, Jordan fails to teach of an acoustic stringed instrument with a sound chamber, and the described chinrest being clamped to the body of the instrument, and easy removable. The US patents to Vochezer (6,268,555), Kaman (5,415,070), and Wolf (4,535,259), teach of an acoustic stringed instrument with a clamped chinrest, but fail to teach of an integrated pickup system. The US patent to Armond (2,486,264) teaches an acoustic stringed instrument with a chinrest, and a microphone or pickup system attached to the body of the instrument, but does not teach of the chinrest and microphone pickup system integrated together, only of the wire connected to the pickup unit being thread under the chinrest, nor does Armond provide proof that the chinrest is clamped to the body of the instrument and can be easily removed. Therefore, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims are deemed allowable.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christina Russell whose telephone number is 571-272-4350. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CR
3/1/2006


JEFFREY DONELS
PRIMARY EXAMINER